

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 10, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the 4th
Bi-annual Water Quality and Regulatory Conference, October 11-13, 2006

On October 11-13, 2006, the East Valley Water District, the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association, and the American Water Works Association Research Foundation are sponsoring the 4th Bi-annual Water Quality and Regulatory Conference in Ontario, California. This three day conference will focus on Perchlorate, Pharmaceuticals, Disinfection By-products, Arsenic and Radon and will feature the leading specialists in the fields of research, treatment technologies, health effect issues, regulations, policy and finance. The conference will be widely attended by over 400 professionals from government, industry, and academia across the country. The conference will permit attendees to learn about new developments in research technology and treatment in the water quality area.

The sponsors have invited a NASA employee in the local California area to give an official presentation on "Risk Communication and Outreach Challenges for Emerging Contaminants." The standards of conduct for Federal employees allow speakers who are presenting information on behalf of NASA to accept an offer of free attendance from the sponsor of the event on the day of the presentation. Here, however, the sponsors have offered to waive the \$350 registration fee for the entire conference for all conference presenters.

I find that this conference meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the entire water quality conference. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the conference, including food and refreshments available to all conference attendees.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon".

R. Andrew Falcon